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# **San Diego City Attorney**

## **Jan I. Goldsmith**

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### **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 18, 2010**

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### **City Attorney's Office Files Criminal Charges Against Owner and Manager of Market for Unsanitary Conditions**

**San Diego, CA:** The San Diego City Attorney's Office Consumer Protection Unit filed a criminal complaint alleging the owner and the manager of a food market, Arafat Aref Aburajab and Marwan Michael Tamimi, operated a market in violation of state health laws. The criminal complaint alleged that Aburajab and Tamimi, committed violations of state law regulating the sale of food at their business, International Grocery of San Diego, 3548 Ashford Street, San Diego, CA 92111.

The charges were filed in San Diego Superior Court (case number M113596) after health inspectors from the San Diego County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) submitted reports of inspection to the prosecutor's office. According to a declaration filed with the Court, the International Grocery market was inspected on five different dates between November 2009, and August 2010. On August 10 and 11, an inspector from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture accompanied county health inspectors.

Aburajab is scheduled to appear in court on September 15, 2010. Tamimi is scheduled to appear in court on September 21, 2010.

All food sold or offered for sale in California must come from approved sources, such as licensed manufacturing facilities which are regulated and inspected by government officials to ensure their safety. All meat offered for sale must be from a facility that is approved and inspected by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In addition, every retail facility that holds or offers food for sale to the public in San Diego County must have a permit to operate issued by DEH and is subject to regular inspections. Inspectors conduct regular inspections to ensure that food is held under conditions that are sanitary, that employees engage in proper food handling practices, and that food is from an approved source or manufacturer. The purpose of these laws is to protect the public from food-borne illnesses.

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